

SECRETREF ID: A66158
1783-79

Executive Registry

114-6925

6 April 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Discussion Item - [REDACTED]

25X1

1. This memorandum requests that you alert [REDACTED] to the possibility that CIA may make a proposal to him in the near future regarding BBC monitoring operations in South Asia. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

2. As you know, FBIS is seeking to set up monitoring operations as soon as possible in South Asia in response to Mr. Brzezinski's 14 November and 2 April memos to the DCI (copies attached). Since Pakistan is off limits to FBIS at least for now, we are looking at the Persian Gulf and India as possible alternative locations. State believes Saudi Arabia offers our best chance of host government consent in the Gulf area and is asking Amembassy Jidda reaction to a proposal for an FBIS bureau in Dhahran. State is also asking Amembassy New Delhi for approval of an FBIS radio reception survey in India. We expect an initial response from Jidda by early next week. The Delhi proposal will be discussed with Ambassador Goheen when he visits Washington later this month. State says FBIS chances of Indian Government approval are almost nil. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

4. An FBIS radio reception survey determined that Islamabad can significantly improve monitoring coverage of the areas of particular concern to Mr. Brzezinski. We believe Islamabad would be the best location for a BBC operation. Another radio reception survey in Doha, Qatar demonstrated that monitoring operations on the Persian Gulf will add important additional coverage to that possible from Islamabad or existing FBIS field bureaus, including the western and southern regional Persian, Azerbaijani and Kurdish broadcasts of Iran, the Baku Domestic Service, and the Yemens. Thus FBIS believes operations in both Pakistan or India and the Persian Gulf are needed to provide full coverage of the target areas. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

5. I have broached the possibility of BBC field operations with my counterpart John Rae, Head of the BBC Monitoring Service. John thinks this approach is more likely to succeed if it comes from the U.S. Government to the British Government at high level and if the request is based on:

a. the need for fuller information from this area for both governments,

b. the political obstacles to FBIS operations,

c. BBC London's long standing responsibility for monitoring shortwave broadcasts from important parts of the area,

[REDACTED]

25X1

e. that such operations be jointly financed. [REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]

25X1

[REDACTED]⁷ I do not believe a formal request should be put to [REDACTED] at this time, allowing us to complete consultations on the feasibility of FBIS setting up its own bureaus in South Asia, but I do suggest that you alert [REDACTED] to the possibility that CIA may table such a proposal in the near future. [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

[REDACTED]
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

Attachments:
As stated

SECRET